Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of facilitating automatic participation in an electronic auction by a bidder on behalf of a user, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information about an ongoing auction, including information about the type of auction and auction rules relating to the auction;

aggregating said information relating to an ongoing auction into a market history;

obtaining market history information related to auctions other than the ongoing auction and aggregating said other market information into a previous market history;

augmenting said market history with said previous market history based on consideration of the relevancy of said previous market history to the ongoing auction;

obtaining information relating to a user, including user specified parameters which may be used in an order computation method or in selection of an order computation method;

obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been placed;

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choosing an order computation method from among a number of potential order

computation methods while taking into account the auction information, ~~the order history~~,

and user-specified parameters;

computing an order via executing the chosen order computation method while

taking into account the auction information, ~~the order history~~, and user-specified

parameters; and

placing the computed order.

2. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said steps of choosing,

computing and placing are repeated at least one more time, whereby at least one revised

order is computed and placed.

3. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said steps of choosing,

computing and placing are performed periodically.

4. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 3, wherein periodic execution of

said choosing, executing and placing steps is triggered by at least one of: a periodic

wakeup signal, receipt of an appropriate market activity message, and a sufficient change

in parameters relating to a user.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said

choosing step comprises choosing an order computation method appropriate to the

auction type and auction rules.

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7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining information relating to the auction type and auction rules comprises obtaining information relating to the auction type and auction rules from an auctioneer via at least one message.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of initiating a prompt for performing said step of obtaining information from an auctioneer.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining information relating to the auction type and auction rules comprises obtaining information about the existence or absence of an order queue.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining information relating to the parameters of a user comprises obtaining limit prices relating to the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining information relating to the parameters of a user is performed prior to the beginning of an auction.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining information comprises obtaining information from an auctioneer relating to market activity.

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15. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving periodic prompts to consider the computation of an order.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of deciding on the viability of computing an order prior to said step of computing an order.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of computing an order comprises the step of ascertaining the legality of the order.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of computing an order comprises computing a belief function.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said step of computing a belief function comprises estimating, for one or more candidate prices within a predetermined range, the likelihood for a bid or ask at each price to result in a trade.

20. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said choosing step comprises ascertaining the viability of computing an order via computing a belief function.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining information comprises obtaining a history of market activity.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. **(Currently Amended)** A method of facilitating automatic participation in an electronic auction by a bidder on behalf of a user, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information relating to an ongoing auction, including information about the auction type and auction rules;

choosing an order computation method from a plurality of order computation methods

obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been placed;

computing an order based on the obtained information while taking into account the information relating to the auction and the information relating to the history of orders; and

placing the computed order;

wherein said step of computing an order comprises estimating, for one or more candidate prices within a predetermined range, the likelihood for a bid or ask at each price to result in a trade.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A method of facilitating automatic participation of an external buyer in an electronic auction, said method comprising the steps of:

automatically obtaining information relating to an auction on behalf of an external buyer, including information about the auction type and auction rules;

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automatically obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been placed;

automatically choosing an order computation method from a plurality of order computation methods;

automatically computing an order on behalf of the buyer while taking into account the information relating to the auction and the information relating to the history of orders; and

automatically placing the computed order on behalf of the buyer.

26. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 25, further comprising the step of:

choosing an order computation method;

wherein said computing step comprises computing an order via executing the chosen order computation method.

27. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for facilitating automatic participation in an electronic auction by a bidder on behalf of a user, said apparatus comprising:

a computer-implemented arrangement for obtaining information relating to an auction, wherein obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtain information about the auction type and auction rules relating to an auction;

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a computer-implemented arrangement for obtaining information relating to a

history of orders that have been placed;

a computer-implemented arrangement for choosing an order computation method

from ~~among~~ a ~~number~~ plurality of ~~potential~~ order computation methods;

a computer-implemented arrangement for computing an order via executing the

chosen order computation method while taking into account the information relating to

the auction and relating to the history of orders; and

a computer-implemented arrangement for placing the computed order.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, further

comprising a computer-implemented arrangement for triggering periodic execution of

said choosing, executing and placing steps.

29. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein said triggering

arrangement is adapted to trigger via at least one of: a periodic wakeup signal, receipt of

an appropriate market activity message, and a sufficient change in parameters relating to a

user.

30. **(Cancelled)**

31. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said

choosing arrangement is adapted to choose an order computation method appropriate to

the auction type and auction rules.

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32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtain information relating to the auction type and auction rules from an auctioneer via at least one message.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 32, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement for initiating a prompt to obtain information from an auctioneer.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtaining information about the existence or absence of an order queue.

35. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein obtaining arrangement is adapted to:

obtain information about parameters relating to a user; and

obtain information about an ongoing auction.

36. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said computing arrangement is adapted to execute the chosen order computation method while taking into account the parameters relating to a user and the information relating to the ongoing auction.

37. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtain limit prices relating to the user.

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38. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtain information from an auctioneer relating to market activity.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement for deciding on the viability of computing an order prior to computing an order.

40. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said computing arrangement is adapted to ascertain the legality of an order.

41. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said computing arrangement is adapted to compute a belief function.

42. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said choosing arrangement is adapted to ascertain the viability of computing an order via computing a belief function.

43. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtain a history of market activity.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to Claim 27, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement for aggregating the information relating to an ongoing auction into a market history.

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45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 44, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement for augmenting the market history with historical information from one or more previous auctions.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for facilitating automatic participation in an electronic auction by a bidder on behalf of a user, said apparatus comprising:

an arrangement for obtaining information relating to an auction, wherein obtaining arrangement is adapted to obtain information about the auction type and auction rules relating to an auction;

an arrangement for obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been placed;

an arrangement for choosing an order computation method from a plurality of order computation methods;

an arrangement for computing an order based on the obtained information; and

an arrangement for placing the computed order while taking into account the information relating to the auction;

wherein said computing arrangement is adapted to estimate, for one or more candidate prices within a predetermined range, the likelihood for a bid or ask at each price to result in a trade.

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47. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for facilitating automatic participation in an electronic auction by a bidder on behalf of a user, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining information relating to an auction, including user specified parameters which may be used in choosing an order computation method and information about an ongoing auction, including information about the auction type and auction rules relating to the auction;

obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been placed;

choosing an order computation method from ~~among~~ a ~~number~~ plurality of ~~potential~~ order computation methods while taking into account the user specified parameters and the information relating to the history of orders;

computing an order via executing the chosen order computation method while taking into account the information relating to the ongoing auction and the information relating to the history of orders; and

placing the computed order.

48. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for facilitating automatic participation in an electronic auction by a bidder on behalf of a user, said method comprising the steps of:

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obtaining information relating to an ongoing auction, including information about

the auction type and auction rules;

obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been placed;

choosing an order computation method from a plurality of order computation

methods;

computing an order based on the obtained information while taking into account

the information relating to the auction; and

placing the computed order;

wherein said step of computing an order comprises estimating, for one or more

candidate prices within a predetermined range, the likelihood for a bid or ask at each

price to result in a trade.

49. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine,

tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform

method steps for facilitating automatic participation of an external buyer in an electronic

auction, said method comprising the steps of:

automatically obtaining information relating to an auction on behalf of an external

buyer, including information about the auction type and auction rules;

automatically obtaining information relating to a history of orders that have been

placed;

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automatically choosing an order computation method from a plurality of order

computation methods;

automatically computing an order on behalf of the buyer while taking into account the

information relating to the auction and information relating to the history of orders; and

automatically placing the computed order on behalf of the buyer.

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